

Oakland Army Base, Private Vehicle
Inspection Building (Vehicle Shed)
(Building No. 4)
Africa Street at Bataan Avenue
Oakland
Alameda County
California

HAER No. CA-125-C

HAER
CAL
1-OAK,
12C-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California 94107

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12C-

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Alterations: Building 4 was completely enclosed and divided into small office spaces in 1961.

I. GENERAL STATEMENT

Architectural Character. Building 4 is an unassuming vehicle shed that has been converted into offices. It does not exhibit any noteworthy architectural features or characteristics.

Condition of Fabric. This structure is in generally good condition.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTERIOR

Overall Dimensions. Building 4 is a long, rectangular 4,600 square foot structure, 200 feet long by 23 feet deep (*Photographs CA-125-C-1, C-3, C-4, and C-6*).

Foundations. Continuous concrete footings support walls; isolated concrete footings support posts. Africa Street is prone to flooding during periods of excessive rains and high tides (*Photograph CA-125-C-2*), however no water has been entering the building. The cause of the problem is two-fold: the storm sewer system is undersized and the rim elevations of the drainage structures in the affected area, due to subsidence, are at an elevation below the mean higher high water line. The problem will be corrected as part of a Port of Oakland project for rehabilitating the back-up storage yards at Wharves 6 and 6-1/2.

Walls. Originally, the south, east and north sides of the structure were faced with 1" x 6" rustic siding, laid horizontally. Painted stucco now replaces the original material, and the previously open west side has been walled in. There is no exterior ornamentation on Building 4.

Structural System. The POV Inspection building is of wood frame construction. A single line of 4" x 6" posts runs the length of the building, supporting a sawtooth-type trussed rafter roof. Flooring is a concrete slab.

Porches, Stoops, Balconies. None.

Chimneys. None.

Openings. Contemporary hollow core wood doors and wood (*Photograph CA-125-E-6*) or metal sash windows (*Photograph CA-125-G-3*) are used throughout.

Roof. The pitched roofed (2½ in 12) is composed of 1" sheathing covered with a 90 lb. prepared roofing.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE INTERIOR

Floor Plans. Building 4 is divided into numerous small offices with either permanent walls or moveable partitions.

Stairways. None.

Flooring. Originally, gravel, the floor has since been replaced with a concrete slab.

Wall and Ceiling Finishes. The interior walls and ceiling are unfinished in some areas of the building. Other rooms are finished with gypsum board and painted.

Openings. Flush, hollow core wood doors and wood or metal sash windows.

Decorative Features and Trims. None.

Hardware. No notable hardware.

Mechanical Equipment. No significant equipment. A small mechanical room was constructed during the building conversion in 1961.

Original Furnishings. None.

IV. SITE

General Setting and Orientation. The POV Inspection building faces the large asphalt paved area used for storage and processing of POVs to the northwest.

Historic Landscaping Design. None.

Outbuildings. None.

V. SOURCES

Architectural Drawings. Real Property Records for Building 4 indicate that there was only one page of architectural drawings for this structure, which was part of the architectural and engineering drawings developed for Building 1. This original plan is located at the OARB Engineering Office, and is included as a supplement to this survey.

Early Views. The contractor's "Completion Report" includes a photograph of the completed structure dated April 6, 1942 (*Photograph CA-125-8*).